

From: Russo, Vincent
To: 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/24/02 3:46pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

December 13, 2001

The Hon. Richard Blumenthal
Attorney General
55 Elm Street
Hartford, CT

Dear Attorney General Blumenthal:

We are writing to express our strong support for your decision to challenge what we consider to be a weak and ineffective settlement of the federal anti-trust lawsuit against Microsoft. We stand with you in your effort to stand up for Connecticut consumers and for restoring competition to an industry so important to our economy.

As state lawmakers, we have worked hard and continue to work to strengthen our economy, encourage small businesses that create jobs, and protect consumers. This proposed settlement works against all of us committed to those goals by allowing Microsoft to continue to bully consumers and competitors.

The proposed settlement fails on every front. It will not end Microsoft's monopoly as the law demands. Instead, it will strengthen and extend Microsoft's monopoly power and its ability to inflate software prices, block innovation and prevent competition. Consumers will continue to pay more for fewer choices and for products compromised by a lack of competition and innovation. This proposed settlement rewards Microsoft's tactics of intimidation, not innovation.

Furthermore, the settlement does nothing to prevent Microsoft from attacking other markets with ever more aggressive tactics in the future. The company's newest operating system, Windows XP, is only the company's most recent and most egregious attempt yet to leverage its existing monopolies to create new ones, this time, on the Internet. Microsoft is positioning itself to control Internet commerce with a hand in nearly every commercial online transaction.

We know your decision to join eight other Attorneys General in challenge this settlement comes in the face of an unprecedented, multi-million dollar Microsoft campaign of influence buying and political pressure. Microsoft has spent millions in political contributions and phony front groups and lobbyists to win outside the court room what

the law and the facts prevented them from winning inside the courtroom. We applaud you for standing up for the consumers and we stand ready to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

Bob Godfrey – 110th District
Chris Murphy – 81st District
Walter Pawelkiewicz – 49th District
John Mordasky – 52nd District
Jessie Stratton – 17th District
John Geragosian – 25th District